

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amendments and/or additions:

- Sub 2 ✓
D1
1. (Twice Amended) A method of producing a semi-hard magnetic material having either a magnetized state or a demagnetized state, wherein the magnetic coercive force H_c of the semi-hard magnetic material is greater than or equal to 800 A/m, which semi-hard magnetic material can maintain a magnetized state and can also be demagnetized, comprising the steps of: preparing a multilayer body in which layers "A" each consist essentially of Fe having magnetism and layers "B" each containing a non-magnetic Cu group metal as the main component thereof are stacked on each other; heating the multilayer body so that each of the layers "B" ^{are segmented substantially} (is partially) ^{shed-like} divided by a dividing heat treatment; and applying a cold plastic working to the multilayer body.
 2. (Previously Amended) A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 1, wherein the dividing heat treatment is performed at a holding temperature of 685 to 1085°C for a holding period of 10 to 180 minutes.
 3. (Previously Amended) A method of producing the magnetic material according to any one of claims 1 or 2, further comprising the step of performing, after the step of said cold plastic working, a steepness-affording heat treatment so that squareness ratio and magnetization steepness are enhanced by heating the multilayer body.
 4. (Previously Amended) A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 3, wherein the steepness-affording heat treatment for enhancing the squareness ratio and

the magnetization steepness by heating is performed at a holding temperature of 400 to 700°C for a holding period of 2 to 120 minutes.

D1 5. (Previously Amended) A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 1, further comprising the step of performing cold working so that the multilayer body becomes a thin sheet having a thickness of 0.03 to 1.0 mm.

Sub E 3 6. (Twice Amended) A semi-hard magnetic material having either a magnetized state or a demagnetized state wherein the magnetic coercive force Hc of the semi-hard magnetic material is greater than or equal to 800 A/m which semi-hard magnetic material can maintain a magnetized state and can also be demagnetized., said magnetic material having a structure in which layers "A" each consist essentially of Fe having magnetism and layers "B" each containing a non-magnetic Cu group metal as the main component thereof are stacked on each other, each of said layers "B" being provided with a shape of *segmented substantially sheet-like layers.* (a sheet partially divided)

7. (Previously Amended) A magnetic marker having the magnetic material according to claim 6, said magnetic material being located so that a bias magnetic field is applied to a magnetostrictive element used for said magnetic marker.

Claim 8 and 9 cancelled

10. (Previously Amended) A magnetic marker having the magnetic material according to claim 6, said magnetic material being located so that a bias magnetic field is applied to a magnetostrictive element used for said magnetic marker.

11. (New) A method of producing a semi-hard magnetic material, wherein the magnetic coercive force Hc of the semi-hard magnetic material is greater than or equal to 800

D
A/m, which semi-hard magnetic material can maintain a magnetized state and can also be demagnetized, comprising the steps of: preparing a multilayer body in which layers "A" each consist of Fe having magnetism and layers "B" each containing a non-magnetic Cu group metal as the main component thereof are stacked on each other; heating the multilayer body so that each of the layers "B" is partially divided by a dividing heat treatment; and applying a cold plastic working to the multilayer body.

12. (New) A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 11, wherein the dividing heat treatment is performed at a holding temperature of 685 to 1085°C for a holding period of 10 to 180 minutes.

13. (New) A method of producing the magnetic material according to any one of claims 11 or 12, further comprising the step of performing, after the step of said cold plastic working, a steepness-affording heat treatment so that squareness ratio and magnetization steepness are enhanced by heating the multilayer body.

14. (New) A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 13, wherein the steepness-affording heat treatment for enhancing the squareness ratio and the magnetization steepness by heating is performed at a holding temperature of 400 to 700°C for a holding period of 2 to 120 minutes.

15. (New) A method of producing the magnetic material according to claim 11, further comprising the step of performing cold working so that the multilayer body becomes a thin sheet having a thickness of 0.03 to 1.0 mm.

D1 Sub E4 16. (New) A semi-hard magnetic material wherein the magnetic coercive force H_c of the semi-hard magnetic material is greater than or equal to 800 A/m which semi-hard magnetic material can maintain a magnetized state and can also be demagnetized., said magnetic material having a structure in which layers "A" each consist essentially of Fe having magnetism and layers "B" each containing a non-magnetic Cu group metal as the main component thereof are stacked on each other, each of said layers "B" being provided with a shape of a sheet partially divided)

17. (New) A magnetic marker having the magnetic material according to claim 16, said magnetic material being located so that a bias magnetic field is applied to a magnetostrictive element used for said magnetic marker.

18. (New) A magnetic marker having the magnetic material according to claim 16, said magnetic material being located so that a bias magnetic field is applied to a magnetostrictive element used for said magnetic marker.